



Upper Snake Region Enforcement Newsletter ~ Summer-2007 ~



Regional

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The Upper Snake Region Conservation Officers contacted 3364 number of sportsman during May, June, July and August. They issued 73 citations and 34 warnings.

REPORT A POACHER!

Call the Citizens Against Poaching Hotline.

1-800-632-5999

If you see a violation...report it! Poachers are stealing your fish and game.

Issue 1

Summer 2007

Welcome.....to the first Regional Enforcement Newsletter. We've put together this report, highlighting some of the activities from the summer of 2007. We'd like to keep people better informed of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's enforcement program in the Upper Snake Region. This is our attempt to share with you some of the enforcement events and programs that take place in the Upper Snake Region. We all hold dear the abundant natural resources that this area provides and its wide array of recreational uses. If you have questions or comments about the Department's rules and regulations or our enforcement activities, we encourage you to contact us. Good enforcement is about building relationships. Get to know your local Conservation Officer. They are a great source of information! We can most effectively serve the public if sportsmen stay informed and involved. See ya out on the trail!

A Snapshot of the South Fork !

On July 10, 2007 IDFG personnel from the Upper Snake and Southeast Regions participated in a group effort with BLM to document recreational use on the South Fork of the Snake River for a day. Officers were stationed at 11 different boat ramps between Palisades Dam and Lorenzo bridge (Hwy 20) from day-light to dark. License checks, creel census and other data was collected from everyone who put-in and took-out on the river that day.

A total of 746 people were contacted that day in 272 boats. Private boats totaled 157 with 431 anglers and commercial boats totaled 115 with 315 anglers and guides.

Recreational use on the South Fork Snake River peaks at this time of year during the famous Stonefly hatch. Boat ramps and camp sites are typically overflowing as

anglers from far and wide ply their skills at catching the famous Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout. While most people complied with regulations on the river, several citations and warnings were issued for violations.



Being a Good Witness!

You're out to enjoy the first day of the hunt. You've planned this day for a long time. You are minding your own business, trying to follow all the rules. And that's when it happens, right in front of you. Someone breaks the law! Where's a Conservation Officer when you need one? The fact of the matter is, there are not enough CO's to be everywhere all the time. That's why law enforcement needs your help to Be a Good Witness! Here's the type of information needed:

WHO is involved?
WHAT is involved?
WHEN did it happen?
WHERE did it happen?
HOW did it happen?

Record the description of the individuals and vehicles involved. Get the LICENSE PLATE NUMBER.

Call the local Conservation Officer, Sheriff's Office or the CAP Hotline.

Above all, remember to be safe! Do not take the law into your own hands and endanger yourself or others.

Let the law enforcement professionals do the work they are trained for.

Close Encounter With a Grizzly

The Teton County Sheriffs office called District Officer Doug Petersen at 8:40 pm on April 10, 2007 to report that a man had just been mauled by a grizzly bear. The notification started a week long investigation by Conservation Officers to reconstruct the nightmare event that concluded with capture and lethal removal of the offending bear.

Department personnel were able to determine that at the time of the incident, which took place near the home of Mr. Tim Henderson, an adult Grizzly Bear had been feeding on a moose carcass that died during the winter. It was a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time for Mr. Henderson when he went looking for his missing dog at dusk and ran smack dab into the Grizzly Bear! Unfortunately for Mr. Henderson, the bear reacted like a normal bear and protected its food source by charging him. The bear knocked him down and began biting him. Keeping his wits, Mr. Henderson did the correct thing by rolling up into a ball and protecting his head/neck area. After the bear left, he was then able to crawl to his cabin where his wife called for help. He suffered from numerous bites and lacerations to his head, neck, shoulders and buttocks. Mr. Henderson was airlifted to East Idaho Regional Medical Center where he has recovered from his injuries. Mr. Henderson is a fortunate man to have survived a close encounter with a bear that is intent on protecting its food!

Conservation Officers, with the assistance of the Teton County Sheriffs Office set traps and snares to capture the bear. After several attempts, the 400 lb., 15 year old male Grizzly Bear was snared and destroyed.

As the Grizzly Bear population and the human population in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem continues to expand, encounters with the great bear seem more likely. Some conflicts seem inevitable, while others can be avoided. How we manage bears and ourselves will reflect upon our willingness to co-habitat and share our environment with this large carnivore.



TRAINING WITH THE GREEN AND GRAY!

As conservation officers with full peace officer status, the job comes with a lot of legal and ethical responsibility. While the primary duties involve enforcing the rules and regulations of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, conservation officers may also enforce other city, county and state laws. As with any law enforcement officer, they may be called upon to respond to a life and death situation and be prepared to make that decision...sometimes in a fraction of second. That decision is not taken lightly, and that is why we train...train...train!

Keeping the public safe while they enjoy Idaho's outdoor resources is why conservation officers spend a considerable amount of time training. By the time a new officer is hired, the individual has already gone through numerous tests, screening, back ground checks, psychological profiling, fitness assessment and skills development. Now they're ready to begin they're training.



All officers must complete a 10 week basic Peace Officer Standards Training Academy in Boise. After that, they go through a rigorous 10 week Field Training Program where they work and train

with other conservation officers. Only then are they assigned to a patrol area somewhere in the state.

Throughout their career, conservation officers continue to receive training in law enforcement. All officers must qualify and train twice a year with their duty pistols, rifles and shotguns to show proficiency in marksmanship skills. They are also trained utilizing the latest up-to-date methods of decision making skills, officer safety, shooting skills and combat tactics. Officers must qualify and train annually in hand-to-hand combat as well as in the use of pepper spray and baton. In addition, officers must also maintain minimum physical fitness testing standards twice a year. Officers also receive schooling in the following areas: interview techniques, evidence collection, forensics, improving communication skills, drug immobilization training, snow machine and boating operation for law enforcement (just to name a few).

All of the training is necessary to make the individual in the field a better officer. With little or no back up in the remote areas of the state, conservation officers sometimes need to utilize all their experience, prior training and skills to make the best decisions in difficult situations. Often they are the first, the last, the primary and the backup officer. They are often the detective, the crime scene investigator, evidence collector and ultimately the prosecuting officer on a case. Wearing a uniform with so many hats is not an easy task!

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game takes pride in the quality of the individuals that chose to serve as Conservation Officers. They are some of the best trained and finest individuals to wear the green and gray!